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To : The Michigan Senate Committee on Economic Development and Regulatory Reform

For four years I have been servicing REO properties in the Southeast Michigan region. Within the last two years I have seen a devastating escalation of theft which has translated to deeper drops in property values and the eventual decline and destruction of once viable neighborhoods. A typical week for me involves at least 10 breakins and theft of copper plumbing ,central air units,furnaces,hot water tanks,wiring,windows,sinks,cabinets,chandeliers,doors, etc,etc,etc .

To the police it is not a priority to show up. So here we are today thousands of breakins later, millions of dollars worth of property damage, the desecration of hundreds of neighborhoods and the continuous decline in the population of the city of Detroit .A once \$60,000 mortgaged home would not have had to sell for \$2,000 if the theft of the copper and everything that gave the property its worth inclusive of the neighborhood in which it stood where considered a priority! It's a priority to me because I live in this city. I own a business in this city. I own properties in this city. My children go to school in this city. I shop in this city. Its priority to me because I am concerned about the safety of the children in this city. The citizens in this city. The eventual comeback of this city.

The lack of priority status has gotten us to this point. When it's stolen where does it go? Hmmm 8 mile and 75. Davison and Sherwood. Fullerton between Schaefer and Hubbell and that's just to name a few. The buggies are stacked with stolen copper, Trailers are overflowing, and Cars have air conditioning units weighing down the trunk! And the police. Nowhere in sight! Why are these scrap yards allowed to operate the way that they do with a we won't ask so you don't have to tell policy? And while I understand that more serious issues abound in our city like murders, child abuse, car-jackings , home-invasions of which I was the victim of just 21 days ago , the fact still remains that no crime should be taken lightly .

We have allowed this cancer to spread .We saw the tumor, the guy with the shopping cart full of goodies or the junk-man with the beat up pickup and rope across the back and ignored it as just a benign growth. Over time we started to see more trucks even bigger ones, Vans, Buggies tied together, we knew something was wrong but yet again it was ignored . A feeling of sickness is now evident. Something is not right. The drive to the doctor's office causes reality to sink in and we see what happens when something goes unchecked. It festers It grows and it eventually kills , Neighborhoods, Businesses, Schools etc, etc. etc.

Lets stop this cancer before it's too late.